

# **APPENDIX 2-VII**

## **Update Letters**

November 6, 2014

**RE: Proposed NextBridge Infrastructure New East-West Tie Transmission Project – Terms of Reference Approval and Other Project Updates**

As you may be aware, NextBridge Infrastructure (NextBridge) is proposing to construct a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) electric power transmission line from Wawa to the Thunder Bay area. The new East-West Tie is anticipated to generally parallel the existing double-circuit 230 kV line corridor but avoids certain sensitive features crossed by the existing line. The proposed 430 kilometre line is needed to maintain a reliable, long-term supply of electricity in northwestern Ontario (the Northwest). The target in-service date is currently the first half of 2018, although this date is the subject of additional assessment as further discussed below.

There have been some important developments we would like to share with you.

Terms of Reference Approval

The Project reached a major milestone in late August. NextBridge is pleased to announce that the Terms of Reference for the new East-West Tie Transmission Project (the Project) was approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change on August 28, 2014.

NextBridge submitted the Proposed Terms of Reference to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for approval on February 28, 2014. The Proposed Terms of Reference was subsequently revised in response to stakeholder comments and re-submitted on May 22, 2014. The Minister's Notice of Approval is posted on the Ministry's web site at [www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/east-west-tie-project](http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/east-west-tie-project). The approved Terms of Reference is available for download from the Project web site at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca). NextBridge has commenced and is continuing with the Environmental Assessment for the Project in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference.

Ontario Power Authority and Ontario Energy Board Correspondence Regarding Project Schedule

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in Ontario, has been monitoring the factors supporting the need for the new East-West Tie Project. On September 30, 2014, NextBridge received a copy of a letter sent from the OPA to the Ontario Energy Board (OEB). In that letter, the OPA proposed that the development schedule for the Project be extended to work toward a 2020 in-service date. On October 29, 2014, the OEB recommended that NextBridge and the OPA work together to produce a revised development schedule for the Project. The revised schedule may include flexibility to allow the Project to come into service quickly should the pace of demand growth change and require an in-service date prior to 2020. NextBridge is currently working with the OPA to develop a revised development schedule. Links to the September 30, 2014 OPA letter to the OEB, and the October 29, 2014 OEB letter to NextBridge can be accessed by visiting the Project web site at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca).

Pukaskwa National Park

To date, NextBridge has not studied a route through Pukaskwa National Park based on direction from Parks Canada in February 2014. On July 9, 2014 the Ontario Minister of Energy wrote to the Federal Minister of the Environment requesting that the federal government reconsider its position and allow NextBridge to assess routing options in the Park.

NextBridge recognizes that there may be additional features to consider in assessing a potential route through Pukaskwa National Park. If authorization is given to study a route through the Park, NextBridge will consider enhancing the current consultation and engagement program with Park-specific engagement initiatives. In any event, NextBridge will continue with our commitment to timely and meaningful dialogue with the Provincial and Federal governments, First Nations and Métis groups and interested stakeholders to develop a robust Project.

*Rescheduling of the Third Round of Open Houses*

The third round of Project Open Houses, originally scheduled to begin in late September 2014, will be held at a later date. NextBridge appreciates the time you have taken to participate in our past Open Houses and want to ensure that timely and relevant information is available when you attend these events. We will notify you when new Open House dates have been established.

NextBridge appreciates your input as we continue to work on this Project and we will keep you up to date as development continues. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further information regarding this Project, please call our toll-free phone line at 1-888-767-3006 or email [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca) and leave your contact information or visit our project web site at [www.nextbridge.ca](http://www.nextbridge.ca).

Sincerely,

[Original Signed]

Michael Power, P.Eng.  
Project Director – East-West Tie Transmission Project  
NextBridge Infrastructure

**Si vous désirez ces informations en français, s'il vous plaît contactez NextBridge au 1-888-767-3006 ou [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca).**

April 7, 2015

**RE: Proposed NextBridge Infrastructure New East-West Tie Transmission Project – Project Update**

I am pleased to provide you with the following Project update.

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) (formerly the Ontario Power Authority), the provincial agency responsible for long-term electricity planning in Ontario, has proposed that the development schedule for the East-West Tie Project be extended to work toward a 2020 in service date. The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) directed NextBridge to work with the IESO to produce a revised development schedule for the Project. NextBridge consulted with the IESO and revised the development schedule and submitted it to the OEB for approval on December 19, 2014. The revised schedule proposes filing of the Leave to Construct application with the OEB in December 2017 to meet an in-service date of December 2020. The OEB has since indicated it is not prepared at this time to approve the revised development schedule proposed given the current uncertainty surrounding routing and access within Pukaskwa National Park. Their response can be found at the link below.

[http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/463441/view/Dec\\_Order\\_EWT\\_20150122.PDF](http://www.rds.ontarioenergyboard.ca/webdrawer/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/463441/view/Dec_Order_EWT_20150122.PDF)

NextBridge has resumed pursuit of permission to study a route that would cross Pukaskwa National Park adjacent to the existing transmission corridor as one potential means of reducing overall project cost through a shortening of overall line length. During this time, we will engage with stakeholders and Aboriginal communities in relation to such a route. NextBridge has requested a prompt decision from Parks Canada with respect to Pukaskwa National Park access. Once a decision is made regarding access to the Park for study purposes, we will be in a better position to reasonably estimate Project development costs for the extended development period and confirm the development schedule. Assuming a timely decision related to Park access, the revised budget will be submitted to the OEB by May 15, 2015. In the event that

authorization to study in the Park is not obtained, the Project budget and schedule will be refined reflecting a Project that goes around the Park.

I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that I, John Deese, have taken on the position of NextBridge's Project Director for the East-West Tie Project effective immediately. I was previously Executive Director of Transmission Development at NextEra Energy Transmission Inc. and in that role participated in East-West Tie Project development work beginning in 2014. I am looking forward to meeting with you to discuss the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JAD', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Deese  
Project Director – East-West Tie Transmission Project  
NextBridge Infrastructure

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December 5, 2016

**RE: Proposed NextBridge Infrastructure East-West Tie Transmission Project – Notice of Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment Report and Project Updates**

Dear Neighbour,

NextBridge Infrastructure LP (NextBridge) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (EA Report) to construct a new, approximately 446-kilometre double-circuit 230-kilovolt transmission line connecting the Wawa Transformer Station (TS) to the Lakehead TS in the Municipality of Shuniah near Thunder Bay, with a connection at the Marathon TS. In accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by the Minister of Environment on August 28, 2014, NextBridge has submitted the Draft EA Report to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

Commencing December 19, 2016, the Draft EA Report will be available for review and comment on the Project website ([www.NextBridge.ca](http://www.NextBridge.ca)) and at locations listed in the Notice included with this letter. As part of the submission process, interested community members, elected officials and municipal staff, agencies, property owners, interest holders, other stakeholders, and First Nations and Métis communities are encouraged to review the Draft EA Report and submit comments to NextBridge by February 28, 2017.

Additional information regarding the Draft EA Report and comment submissions can be found in the Notice of Submission of Draft Environmental Assessment document included with this letter.

Here are some other Project updates I would like to share with you:

*New Project Director*

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that I, Jennifer Tidmarsh, have taken on the position of NextBridge's Project Director for the East-West Tie Transmission Project on an interim basis, effective immediately. Previously, I worked on the Project as Team Lead, Indigenous Relations, since 2013, and am looking forward to continuing working with you.

*Fourth Round of Open Houses*

A fourth round of Open Houses is anticipated to be held in the first quarter of 2017. NextBridge appreciates the time you may have taken to participate in our past Open House events, and we will notify you when new Open House dates and venues have been determined.

Loon Lake Local Route Refinement

In response to the feedback received during consultation with Loon Lake Community members, the Damphino Fishing Club, and the North Shore Fishing Club, NextBridge conducted routing assessments on proposed route alternatives brought forward by these groups. After exploring the suggested route alternatives, NextBridge made refinements to one of the community-proposed routes, and this new Local Route Refinement addresses many of the issues brought forward during the development of the Project. After careful consideration and review, NextBridge has incorporated this Local Route Refinement into our Project planning and Environmental Assessment, and we are no longer considering the previous route proposal which generally paralleled the existing East-West Tie near Loon Lake.

Your input is appreciated, and we plan to keep you informed as we continue to develop the Project. If you have any questions or comments, or if you require further information, please call our toll-free phone line at 1-888-767-3006, email [info@nextbridge.ca](mailto:info@nextbridge.ca) and leave your contact information, or visit our web site at [www.NextBridge.ca](http://www.NextBridge.ca).

Sincerely,



Jennifer Tidmarsh  
Project Director – East-West Tie Transmission Project  
NextBridge Infrastructure

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